
Chapter 3: Vision, Mission, Goals & Objectives



Source: Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center

3.1 THE VISION AND MISSION

In the 2001 Comprehensive Plan Update, an emphasis is placed on planning to preserve the quality of life that makes Lexington-Fayette County a desirable place to work and live. The numerous benefits of a greenway system will certainly contribute to this mission. A principal vision of the 2001 Comprehensive Plan Update is the realization of the recommendations set forth in the 1994 Greenspace Plan, which proposes to preserve open space, provide facilities and amenities to serve all citizens and help create a sense of community. The vision of the two Plans serves as the precedent for the Greenway Master Plan. Because greenways are linear, the proposed greenway system will form the framework for a greenspace system, linking greenspaces, public spaces and destinations throughout the Urban County.

It is the vision of the Greenway Master Plan to create a community-wide system of linkages that will

contribute to the connectivity, preservation, protection and enhancement of riparian corridors, floodplain areas, environmentally sensitive areas, biologically diverse natural areas and habitats. The greenway system is anticipated to encourage the appreciation and protection of scenic viewsheds and places of historic and cultural significance. The corridors are planned to link neighborhoods, parks, Downtown Lexington, schools, recreational and fitness facilities, shopping and work destinations. It is intended that the proposed greenway system be used and appreciated by citizens of all ages with a variety of interests.

The Mission of the Greenway Master Plan is the development of a dual system of conservation corridors and trail corridors that will provide physical and functional linkages between greenspaces, habitats, recreational areas, neighborhoods, cultural and historic resources and workplaces. These linkages will occur both within

Lexington-Fayette County and beyond to surrounding counties.

3.2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The mission of the Greenway Master Plan is reflected in the following goals and objectives. The basis for the development of these goals and objectives is derived from the 2001 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Future planning decisions regarding the realization of the Greenway Master Plan should reflect the intention of the goals and objectives as a whole. Likewise, individual portions of this Plan should not be considered out of context. In order to assure that the intent of the Greenway Master Plan is followed, decisions should be based upon this Plan in its entirety, including the goals, the objectives, the greenway system and the implementation strategies and appendices.

Connectivity Goal

To develop and implement a greenway system that links neighborhoods to each other and to schools, parks, cultural facilities, workplaces, natural areas and the region.

Objectives

- A. Encourage cooperation and establish communication throughout the Bluegrass Region in order to link greenways beyond the Urban County line.
- B. Identify and promote specific rural roads for bicycle routes to link the Urban Service Area with the Rural Service Area and Natural Areas.
- C. Strive for greenways to be within a reasonable distance of every residence in the Urban Service Area.
- D. Develop greenways to provide connectivity of individual corridors or trails with the entire greenway system.
- E. Develop an interconnected system of shared use trails, sidewalks, bike lanes and bike routes.
- F. Connect natural areas, parks and open spaces to support healthy functioning of ecosystems.
- G. Establish a comprehensive on-street and off-street bikeway/pedestrian system for commuters.

Natural Resources Goal

To develop and implement a greenway system that will function to preserve, protect and restore the natural resources of Lexington-Fayette County, and to establish the greenway system as green infrastructure.

Objectives

- A. Protect floodplain lands as vital areas for the absorption and storage of floodwaters, thereby helping to reduce economic losses caused by flooding, and providing sound watershed management.
- B. Protect and enhance the overall quality of the stream and river corridors and aquifer recharge areas in both urban and rural areas, meeting or exceeding water quality standards.
- C. Protect environmentally sensitive areas, geologic hazard areas and natural landscapes within and adjacent to greenways.
- D. Protect and enhance riparian and other natural areas along greenways that will support biological diversity of native flora and fauna.
- E. Restore or establish habitat and migration corridors where possible.
- F. Protect and restore aquatic habitat.



Town Branch

Courtesy of Van Meter Pettit

Transportation Goal

To develop and implement a greenway system that provides opportunities for alternative transportation modes, such as bicycling and pedestrian use.

Objectives

- A. Include destination points and commuter routes in the greenway trail system to link residents to their places of work, shopping, study and play.
- B. Provide and promote an interconnected system of on-road bike lanes and off-road trails and sidewalks as alternatives to vehicular transportation, thus decreasing motorized use and improving air quality.
- C. Develop and promote the greenway system as an integral element in transportation planning.
- D. Promote bicycle and pedestrian use for significant transportation corridors, while preserving, protecting and enhancing the visual character of the corridor.
- E. Protect scenic corridors.
- F. Design trails, bikeways or sidewalks to provide each neighborhood with adequate public safety in an aesthetically pleasing manner.
- G. Provide incentives to property owners for the upkeep of sidewalks.
- H. Promote new development and capital improvement projects that provide for safe, well-organized pedestrian and bicycle friendly facilities.



Beaumont Trail

Health, Fitness and Recreation Goal

To develop and implement a greenway system that offers community residents an opportunity to utilize their leisure time to maintain a fit and healthy lifestyle.

Objectives

- A. Develop a shared use trail system within greenways that is accessible to citizens for a variety of recreational activities, providing both active and passive opportunities and close to where people live and work.

- B. Strive for greenway trails to be accessible to all persons, regardless of their ability. Utilize the most current federal and national guidelines on outdoor accessibility where possible.
- C. Develop and promote greenways as a destination for health and fitness activities, for both daily use and special events.
- D. Promote greenway use as a therapeutic and healing resource to the health care community.
- E. Develop and promote greenways as a recreational asset to neighborhoods, property owners and the entire Community.
- F. Provide trails oriented to nature-appreciation recreation.
- G. Develop off-road trails where possible, as the preferred choice to on-road facilities.

Cultural and Historic Goal

To develop and implement a greenway system that promotes, protects and enhances the unique cultural and historic identity of Lexington-Fayette County.

Objectives

- A. Preserve and protect linkages to cultural and historic resources within, adjacent to, or in close proximity to trail corridors. These include museums, libraries, schools, parks, churches, historic sites and districts, cultural landscapes, community icons, and scenic corridors and byways.
- B. Promote bicycling and pedestrian access in and around the Downtown area.
- C. Promote the greenway system as a public amenity that contributes to Community character and identity.



Economic Goal

To develop and implement a greenway system that offers numerous economic benefits to Community residents.

Objectives

- A. Promote greenways for tourism dollars. Preserve the natural, cultural and historic resources that are an integral resource for greenways.
- B. Identify and promote Lexington-Fayette County's role in regional tourism.
- C. Promote greenways as an economic asset to the Community by enhancing the quality of life for its citizens, thus attracting new businesses to the area.
- D. Promote the value-added characteristics of greenways as an economic asset to neighborhoods and property owners.
- E. Encourage greenspace/greenways in revitalization projects.
- F. Identify and promote destination points along greenways that will benefit from the increase in visits by trail users.
- G. Promote the value of greenways regarding reduction of health care costs associated with a healthier, fitter population.
- H. Promote the value of greenways regarding reduction in overall transportation costs and improved air quality in the provision of transportation alternatives.
- I. Protect homeowners' investments through greenway acquisition in areas identified as needing flood control.
- J. Promote the value of greenways regarding savings associated with water quality improvements.

Education Goal

To develop and implement a greenway system that recognizes Lexington-Fayette County's unique environmental, cultural and historic resources, and promotes opportunities for learning about them.

Objectives

- A. Promote outdoor classrooms and interpretive signage or exhibits within greenways.
- B. Promote the development of programs and curricula that incorporate the study and appreciation of greenways, in conjunction with the Fayette County Public Schools, private schools and universities.
- C. Promote the development of programs that incorporate the use and appreciation of greenways in conjunction with the Division of Parks and Recreation.
- D. Develop educational workshops for stakeholder groups, such as elected officials, LFUCG staff; developers, landscape architects, engineers, health care professionals, transportation planners, historic preservation groups, environmental groups, civic groups, neighborhood associations, adjacent property owners and corporate sponsors. Offer the workshops as continuing education for professional groups.
- E. Establish an "Adopt-a-Greenway" program to include participation among local business, industry, neighborhood and civic organizations.
- F. Develop a program and dialogue with the media, including print, radio and television. Establish a greenways publication and web site to keep residents informed of progress and activities.



Photo by Lexington Herald Leader

Implementation Goal

To develop and implement a greenway program that addresses issues, such as responsibilities, acquisition, funding, facility development and management.

Objectives

- A. Encourage implementation of the Greenway Master Plan through regulation, Comprehensive Plan Updates, plan administration, capital improvement budgeting, and other strategies.
- B. Develop an implementation strategy for greenways that is based on public/private partnerships and community participation.
- C. Assign responsibilities for the greenway program to appropriate LFUCG divisions and private sector organizations.
- D. Adopt a management philosophy and policies that encourage natural resource stewardship.
- E. Establish a dedicated source of funding for operation and management activities.
- F. Establish regulation standards for greenway acquisition, facility development and management.
- G. Provide for the periodic review of the Greenway Master Plan and related documents.
- H. Maintain a GIS database and maps with pertinent information on the greenway program and the components comprising the greenway system.
- I. Design trails to balance the needs between minimizing any potential adverse impacts on adjacent property while, at the same time, providing trail facilities that meet design specifications.
- J. Provide buffering between greenway trails and adjacent lands, where necessary, to minimize impacts.
- K. Use greenways, where appropriate, as buffers between incompatible land uses.
- L. Plan for greenway acquisition and development to reasonably coincide with the occurrence of development and capital improvement projects.
- M. Encourage the private dedication of greenways for public acquisition.
- N. Design greenways to best safeguard the safety and security of the user. Establish rules of use and penalty mechanisms for violators.

